(b) if so, whether Government plan to initiate any penal action against the seed suppliers under the Seeds Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Claims disbursed under Crop insurance Scheme

2160. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the claims disbursed during the last three years say upto January, 1993 under the Crop Insurance Scheme in States of Rajasthan and Orissa; and

(b) the number of farmers actually benefited under this scheme in the two States during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The State Government of Rajasthan did not implement the Crop Insurance Scheme in the last three years.

The claim disbursed and number of farmers benefited under this scheme in Orissa during the last three years, is as under:—

Rs. in lakh

	Claims paid	Farmers benefited
1990-91	279.91	60624
1991-92	75.94	18484
1992-93	..	..

Data for 1992-93 is not yet available, as the cut off dates for sending yield data to General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) by the State Governments are 31st July 1993, for Kharif and Rabi Seasons respectively.

Starvation Deaths

2161. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned "matter of coincidence—starvation is common in tribal areas" in the Sunday Weekly of 24-30 January, 1993 saying that starvation is not a sole privilege of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput of India.

(b) if so, which other tribal pockets including those in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura have been identified as starvation prone; and

(c) what special steps, if any have been taken by the Central Government to ensure that no further starvation and malnutrition deaths take place in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

2162. (Transferred to 18th March, 1993)

Drought prone areas in the country

2163. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI":

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a scheme to undertake certain works in perennial drought prone areas particularly in Northern States in the country to control the famines;

(b) whether the Government of Northern States and Bihar have forwarded any scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(d) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (f) Government of Rajasthan have prepared a Perspective Plan for implementation of relief-cum-development works on a systematic basis in perennial drought prone areas. The perspective plan (1992-2000) received from the Government of Rajasthan envisages a financial outlay of Rs. 1670.00 crores, for undertaking activities in the field of drinking water supply, water-shed development and soil conservation, irrigation and area development, agriculture, Public Distribution System, animal husbandry, forestry, roads, village industries, energy, cooperatives, social welfare, women and child development, immunisation, nutrition and medicare and rural housing and farm ponds.

While no detailed survey in this regard has been conducted, the Perspective Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with the district authorities, would serve as a basis and guide for working out detailed district action plans, which on mobilisation of required resources would be addressing themselves to the task of drought proofing.

No other State Government has submitted any proposal for this purpose.

Ruling prices of agriculture commodities

2164. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the ruling prices of various agriculture commodities in the market;

(b) what are the corresponding prices of the last two years; and

(c) what are the reasons for the decline in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The ruling prices of agricultural commodities vary from commodity to commodity and market to market. The range of wholesale prices of 17 important agricultural commodities in the mid-February, 1993, 1992 and 1991 are shown in the enclosed statement. (*see* below)

(c) The prices of items at serial number 8 to 17 (enclosed statement) have declined in varying degrees this year compared to last year. The decline in prices can be attributed among other factors to good kharif harvest and bright prospects for rabi crop, import of wheat and edible oils.